

JUSTIFICATION:

Due to the large number of wildland fires that occurred in October 2003 and the extensive utilization of the Firehawk helicopters, the maintenance inspections will be required sooner than normal. The increased fire activity created an unusually heavy backlog for our helicopter maintenance staff and consequently, they are unable to perform this inspection.

In order to have the helicopter available at the earliest possible time, we are requesting Sikorsky to provide the necessary personnel to perform the inspection at our Barton Heliport facility.

Sikorsky is the original equipment manufacturer. The 500-hour inspection is a mandated component of the helicopter maintenance regime as established by the manufacturer.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The estimated cost of the 500-hour inspection and service will not exceed \$150,000 and the Department's 2003-04 Adopted Budget has adequate funding for this service. Sufficient appropriation is budgeted under Services and Supplies in the Special Operations Budget Unit. There is no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The County Purchasing Agent has a statutory limitation of \$100,000 for Sundry Services; therefore, your Board's approval is necessary to accomplish this critical maintenance requirement.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

The Department is in the process of developing a formal contract proposal with Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation for future 500-hour maintenance inspections. This contract will be finalized by January 2005.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Approval of the recommended actions will enable the Department to continue our efforts of emergency services to residents of Los Angeles County.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
May 12, 2004
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CONCLUSION:

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please return copies of this letter to:

1. Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District
Materials Management Division
5801 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100
Commerce, CA 90040
Attention: James Ealey, Chief, Materials Management Division
2. Internal Services Department
Purchasing Division
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Room 102
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Attention: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Michael W. Dyer, North Regional Operations Bureau, at (661) 286-2792.

Respectfully submitted,



P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:hn

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Louisa Ollague
Randi Tahara
Joseph Charney
Matt Knabe
Jennifer Plaisted